

**TOWN OF ARLINGTON**  
**TOWN MEETING PROCEDURES COMMITTEE**

*September 25, 2023*

**Call to Order**

The meeting of the Town Meeting Procedures Committee was called to order by Town Moderator Greg Christiana on Wednesday, March 2, 2023, at 7:35 p.m. via the Town's Zoom channel.

*Quorum*

A quorum was present: Adam Auster, Greg Christiana, Rebecca Gruber, Christopher Moore, and John Worden.

*Hybrid Meeting*

Mr. Christiana said that remote participation in the meeting was authorized by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

**Public Comment**

*No Comments*

There were no other persons present or remotely present.

**Disposition of Minutes**

Mr. Moore moved to approve the draft minutes of the August 2, 2023, meeting, with the following correction under "Documentation of Procedures":

MOTION:  
*Corrected Minutes*

- Add "version August 2nd 2023" to the reference to "Town Meeting Guidelines [DRAFT]"

Ms. Gruber seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

**New Business**

*MBTA Communities Process*

Mr. Auster proposed a way to structure consideration of the Redevelopment Board's recommended compliance with the MBTA Communities Act at the upcoming special town meeting.

He suggested periods of informal and formal consideration, with a break in between.

*Amendments*

He also suggested that if Town Meeting wants to make changes to the Board's recommendation, it should do so by referring the question back to the Board.

Such a motion could ask the Board to revise the proposal along specific lines and return it to the special town meeting.

*Informal and  
Formal  
Consideration*

Mr. Auster referred to “Proposal: Informal Consideration vs. Regular Consideration” as an example of a rule that would enable Town Meeting to consider the proposal in stages. A copy of this proposal is appended to these minutes.

Discussion touched on the roles of Town Meeting and the Redevelopment Board, the options available to the Moderator, and the extent to which it may be advisable to depart from our regular way of doing business.

Mr. Christiana said he would take the ideas under advisement.

*Town Meeting  
Guidelines*

Mr. Christiana shared “Town Meeting Guidelines [DRAFT]” dated August 2. A copy of this document is appended to these minutes.

He said he wanted to share these guidelines with members before the special town meeting, to explain how he intends to run the meeting.

*Consent Agenda*

He told the Committee that there probably would not be a consent agenda for the special town meeting, and that he might omit that section from the information he shares this fall.

*Distribution of  
Proposed  
Amendments*

In response to a question, Mr. Christiana said he would add to the guidelines information about using a Town copier to print the proposals he requires be distributed to Town Meeting members in order to be considered.

Committee members discussed the organization of the guidelines and the value of explaining these procedures to Town Meeting members. They identified areas where clarification or elaboration could be helpful.

*MOTION:  
Adjournment*

Mr. Moore moved that the meeting adjourn.

Ms. Gruber seconded the motion.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 9:23 p.m.

Adam Auster  
September 26, 2023

Documents attached to these minutes:

1. Notice of meeting
2. “Proposal: Informal Consideration vs. Regular Consideration”
3. “Town Meeting Guidelines [DRAFT]”